

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 15-25

THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN  
Winter 1981

# The Historian as Foreign Policy Analyst: The Challenge of the CIA

SUMNER BENSON

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS and the institutions of American policy have been engaged in increasingly fruitful relations since World War II. Just as individuals like George and Herbert Feis have linked the worlds of diplomacy and historical research, so the profession has established "institutional beachheads"<sup>1</sup> in the historical offices of the Department of State, the military services, and in smaller numbers, the Departments of Defense and Energy. In these offices historians working as historians have applied rigorous scholarly standards in editing primary sources, most notably the *Foreign Relations of the United*

\* This paper is a revised version of a talk presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, University of Southern California, August 1980.

This material has been reviewed by the Central Intelligence Agency to assist the author in eliminating classified information. However, that review constitutes neither CIA authentication of material presented as factual nor a CIA endorsement of the author's views or those ascribed by the author to others (including current or former officials of any nation).

1. The concept is taken from Otis L. Graham, Jr., "Historians and the World of (Off-Campus) Power," *The Public Historian*, Volume I, Number 2 (Winter 1979), 34.

CONTINUED